

AUGUST 27, 1964

FSIS 72

REPORT ON S. VIETNAM

HANOI VNA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1253 27 AUG 64 B

(TEXT) HANOI, 27 AUGUST--THERE HAS BEEN A HEATED DEBATE AMONG U.S. RULING CIRCLES OVER A REPORT BY A CIA OFFICIAL WHICH SAID "THERE REMAIN SERIOUS DOUBT THAT VICTORY CAN BE WON" BY THE UNITED STATES IN ITS WAR IN SOUTH VIETNAM. ACCORDING TO WESTERN SOURCES, THIS 45-PAGE REPORT WAS WRITTEN BY WILLARD MATIAS, A CIA EXPERT, AND FINISHED 9 JUNE.

THE REPORT, ENTITLED "TRENDS IN THE WORLD SITUATION," IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CIA. IT IS CONSIDERED A DRAFT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S LINE BUT WAS DISTRIBUTED TO THE PRESS ON 25 AUGUST BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE OF THE RUMOR THAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, WHICH ALSO POSSESSED THIS REPORT, WOULD SOON PUBLISH IT IN THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM THE REPORT SAYS: "THE GUERRILLA WAR IN SOUTH VIETNAM IS IN ITS FIFTH YEAR AND NO END APPEARS IN SIGHT. THE VIET CONG IN SOUTH VIETNAM (SOUTH VIETNAMESE PATRIOTIC FORCES--VNA) ARE PRESSING THEIR OFFENSIVE MORE VIGOROUSLY THAN EVER. THE POLITICAL MISTAKES OF THE DIEM REGIME INHIBITED EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR, WHICH IS REALLY MORE OF A POLITICAL CONTEST THAN A MILITARY OPERATION, AND LED TO THE REGIME'S DESTRUCTION. THE COMBINGUERRILLA EFFORT (OF THE UNITED STATES--VNA) CONTINUES TO FLOUNDER, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE INHERENT DIFFICULTY OF THE PROBLEM AND PARTLY BECAUSE DIEM'S SUCCESSORS HAVE NOT YET DEMONSTRATED THE LEADERSHIP AND INSPIRATION NECESSARY."

27 AUG 612P REB/RM